



**Environmental Quality Board**

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June 29, 2004

Pamela Jo Rasmussen  
Permitting Analyst  
Xcel Energy, Inc. - NSP  
PO Box 8  
1414 W. Hamilton Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI, 54702-0008

**Re: Docket MEQB No. 03-73-TR-Xcel**

Dear Ms. Ramussen:

Here is information request number two regarding the Split Rock to Lakefield 345/115 transmission line project.

You may respond by e-mail, but please also provide a response in writing by July 19, 2004. Please indicate the above cited docket number, the corresponding request number and the respondent's name and title in your response. If your response contains Trade Secret data, please include a public copy. If you have any questions or problems providing the requested information, please contact me at 651-296-2096.

**Request No. 4.**

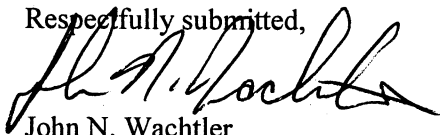
Please explain specifically how the location of potential wind farm projects in the area affected the location of Xcel Energy's proposed Nobles County substation sites, if at all. Please also specifically explain, if possible, how potential wind farm projects in Fenton Township or other townships affected the location of Xcel Energy's proposed routes for the 115-kV transmission line, if at all.

**Request No. 5**

Please briefly describe any transmission line routes Xcel Energy reviewed but dropped from consideration as it prepared its route-permit application, and the reasons the routes were dropped. Please use maps where possible. For purposes of this request, I am not referring to the alternative routes that are listed in the route-permit application as "Not

Used" or "Rejected," but other alternative routes, if any, you may have considered in your screening process but dropped for various reasons. For example, Section 4.2 of the route-permit application mentions that some potential routes were "dropped from consideration" due to proximity to homes or wildlife management areas used by large populations of waterfowl. The purpose of this request is to minimize spending unnecessary time during the scoping process reassessing routes Xcel Energy has already dropped from consideration for good reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Wachtler", written over the typed name.

John N. Wachtler

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-2096

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